REMARKS

At the time of the Notice of Allowance dated December 10, 2007, claims 1-3, 6-7, and 9-10 were pending and allowed in the present Application. By the present Amendment, claims 7 and 9 have been cancelled. In this regard, the Examiner is directed to M.P.E.P. § 714.16(d), entitled "Amendment After Notice of Allowance, 37 CFR 1.312," which states:

> After the Notice of Allowance has been mailed, the application is technically no longer under the jurisdiction of the primary examiner. He or she can, however, make examiner's amendments (see MPEP § 1302.04) and has authority to enter amendments submitted after Notice of Allowance of an application which embody merely the correction of formal matters in the specification or drawing, or formal matters in a claim without changing the scope thereof, or the cancellation of claims from the application, without forwarding to the supervisory patent examiner for approval. (emphasis added).

Thus, as clearly stated in M.P.E.P. § 714.16(d), the Examiner has the authority to enter an Amendment that cancels claims from the present Application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit the Examiner to enter the proposed Amendment.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 09-0461, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Date: March 10, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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